



OFFICE OF SHERIFF

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April 8, 2015

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Room TW-A325
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Ex Parte* Communication
WC Docket No. 12-375; Inmate Calling Services

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The O'Brien County Sheriff's Office hereby files an *ex parte* communication in connection with the above-referenced proceeding. The O'Brien County Sheriff's Office supports the comments and reply comments filed by the National Sheriffs' Association in this proceeding. The purpose of this filing is to submit additional information specific to this office in support of NSA's position that Sheriffs must be allowed to recover their costs if ICS services are to continue to be widely available in jails.

Inmate calling is a discretionary service in our jail and it is allowed for the benefit of inmates and their families. If we are not permitted to recover the costs associated with the provision of ICS service, then we probably will be forced to eliminate altogether access to inmate phones in our jail. Currently, we have the incentive to allow significant access to ICS service and inmates are able to make calls 12 - 13 hours per day. Denying payments to our jail or restricting such payments to levels that do not at least cover our costs, will have the effect of having no reason to continue to allow ICS

Our budget has not kept pace with our cost to operate in recent years. If not having the ICS for inmates available, it would then require inmates to communicate via the US Mail. That would not benefit the inmate(s) in any way. In fact it would be just the opposite effect. If the cost of allowing ICS must compete with all other budget needs, it may not be funded.

Accordingly, Sheriffs incur significant costs in allowing ICS in jails and Sheriffs must be allowed to recover their costs to be able to continue to allow ICS and to encourage the deployment of ICS in jails.

Respectfully submitted,


Michael Anderson, Sheriff